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MEASURES TO ELIMINATE INTERNATIONAL TERRORISM

SECURITY COUNCIL
Fifty-fourth year

Letter dated 29 October 1999 from the Permanent Representative of Ukraine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to forward to you the text of the statement by the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) on the joint actions in connection with the increase of the threat of terrorism, adopted by the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, the Republic of Moldova, the Russian Federation, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan and Ukraine at the meeting of the Council of Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the States parties to CIS in Yalta, Ukraine, on 8 October 1999 (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 160, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Volodymyr YEL'CHENKO
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of Ukraine
to the United Nations

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ANNEX

[Original: Russian]

Statement by the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the States parties to the Commonwealth of Independent States on joint actions in connection with the increase of the threat of terrorism, adopted on 8 October 1999 in Yalta, Ukraine

The Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the States parties to the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) regard as criminal and unjustifiable all acts, methods and practices of terrorism, wherever and by whomsoever committed, including those which jeopardize friendly relations among States and peoples and threaten the territorial integrity, security and constitutional structure of States and stability in their territory and throughout the world. In this context, such radical forms of extremism as terrorism and aggressive separatism are particularly dangerous today.

The Ministers note with concern the increasing trend towards the merging of terrorist groups with criminal structures and the internationalization of their activities, the main sources of financing for which are now the drug trade and arms smuggling. In order to achieve their criminal aims, they actively use political, philosophical, ideological, separatist, racial, ethnic or religious slogans.

The Ministers strongly condemn terrorism and advocate the coordination of efforts and the drawing up of agreed measures to combat this phenomenon effectively. They affirm the support of their countries for greater cooperation between the States parties to the Commonwealth of Independent States and other States and international organizations, primarily the United Nations, the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, the Council of Europe and the Organization of the Islamic Conference, in combating terrorism.

The Ministers believe that the following key principles should form the basis for such cooperation:

- The protection of their own nationals from the encroachment of terrorists;

- Mutual cooperation with a view to the prevention and suppression of terrorist acts, wherever and by whomsoever committed, and the bringing to justice of the perpetrators of terrorist acts;

- The prevention and suppression in their territory of activities involving the preparation and financing of any acts of terrorism;

- The refusal of asylum to terrorists; those who plan, finance and commit terrorist acts should be deprived of the right of asylum granted to persons legally recognized as refugees;

- The exchange of information in accordance with international law and national legislation and cooperation on administrative and judicial matters with a view to preventing terrorist acts;

- Ensuring compliance with international conventions against terrorism and the continuation of work to strengthen the international legal system for combating terrorism.

The Ministers emphasize that resolute opposition to terrorists sheltering behind political, philosophical, ideological, separatist, racial, ethnic and religious slogans is in no way aimed at discrimination against any one of those causes.

The Ministers reaffirm their countries' resolve to strengthen the international legal basis for combating terrorism. In this connection, they support the joint statement of the permanent members of the Security Council on terrorism of 23 September 1999 (S/1999/996, annex II) and approve the measures set out therein, and they declare that it is the intention of their countries to cooperate in the work of preparing a draft resolution on the suppression of terrorism during the next session of the General Assembly.

The Ministers call upon all States to sign and ratify, or accede to, the 1998 International Convention for the Suppression of Terrorist Bombings as soon as possible, and they favour the speedy completion of the drafting and conclusion of an international convention for the suppression of acts of nuclear terrorism. The Ministers declare that it is the intention of their States to accede to the universal conventions against terrorism in force and they call upon other States to do the same.

The Ministers for Foreign Affairs welcome the decision of the Council of Ministers of Internal Affairs of CIS on cooperation between the internal affairs organs of the States parties to CIS in exposing and cutting off the channels for deliveries of arms and military supplies, financial support and the movement of mercenaries into conflict regions.